allocations to APL category, etc. Also, as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission of 1993-94 and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000, the number of BPL families in the country was 6.52 crore. However, as reported by June 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL ration cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards.

To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State & UT Governments to streamline it by -

(i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;

(ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;

(iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; monthly certification of delivery of essential commodities by FPS licensees to ration card holders; and

(iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, etc.

Allocation of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh

†1548. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains to be allocated to Madhya Pradesh during the financial year 2009-10;

(b) the reasons for reduction in the supply of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh during the financial year 2008-09;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains demanded for the financial year 2009-10; and

(d) whether the Central Government would make foodgrains available for Madhya Pradesh this year as per its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families, on the basis of ration cards issued by the States/UTs or the number of households on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000, whichever is less, @ 35 kgs. per family per month.

The allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in Central Pool and the past offtake by States. As such, these allocations are not based on demands of State Governments.

The allocations of rice for the APL category under TPDS from April, 2008 were based on each State's offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, wheat allocation was maintained at the level of 2007-08. Considering the demand from the State for additional allocation of foodgrains, the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has enhanced the allocation under APL category from March 2009 @ 29,123 tons per month, thereby ensuring allocation of at least 10 kg. per APL family per month. The allocations for the year 2009-10 have been maintained at the level of 10 kg. per APL family per month. The details of the existing monthly allocations for the State of Madhya Pradesh for 2009-10 are as under:

(in tons)

Commodity	AAY	BPL	APL	Total
Rice	8672	9929	0	18601
Wheat	46683	79089	55780	181552
TOTAL	55355	89018	55780	200153

Demand and production of edible oil

1549. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not achieved self-sufficiency in production of edible oils;

(b) if so, details thereof with reference to demand and production; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve self sufficiency in edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has not achieved self sufficiency in the production of edible oils as the availability of edible oils in the country from domestic sources is less than the demand. The deficit is being met by the imports. During the year 2008-09 (November to October), production of oilseeds, net domestic availability of edible oils and demand of edible oils is estimated at 281.27 lakh tons, 85.52 lakh tons and 151.18 lakh tons respectively.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to achieve self sufficiency in edible oils and increase the production of edible oils in the country. A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major oilseeds growing States for increasing production. The States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat etc. are implementing the Oilpalm Development Programme under ISOPOM.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow these crops. Block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and ICAR. Budget Expenditure of Rs.320 crores has been kept for 2009-10 for ISOPOM Scheme.